

2025

CLEAN ENERGY

SUCCESS IN THE STATES

BUILDING CLEAN, LOWERING COSTS



CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL



The 2025 elections put a [national spotlight on energy affordability](#) as a significant issue for voters. However, in states across the country, policies to tackle the affordability crisis by promoting clean energy solutions and holding polluters accountable won all year, thanks to the work of the League of Conservation Voters' (LCV) 30+ state affiliates in the Conservation Voters Movement (CVM), through the Clean Energy for All (CEFA) campaign.

Despite President Trump and congressional Republicans' efforts to ban clean energy and raise the cost of everything, including electricity, state progress shows a hopeful path forward. Renewables like wind and solar, along with battery energy storage, are the cheapest and quickest energy sources to deploy, and state leadership is making it happen.

The work of the CVM is critical now more than ever. In 2025, states nationwide fought to defend clean energy advancements while continuing to lead the country forward on climate action – all helping to lower bills for American families and lower pollution that endangers people and the planet. States took action to promote solar and battery storage projects, improve electricity transmission efficiency and reliability, decarbonize transportation and buildings, and dedicate funding to implement climate policies and programs. They also instated urgent consumer safeguards to make utilities put people over profits and to prevent energy cost increases driven by data centers.

Furthermore, state leaders doubled down on their commitment to clean energy to help meet rising energy demand and save customers money. Governors around the country including Gavin Newsom of California, Kathy Hochul of New York, Jared Polis of Colorado, Katie Hobbs of Arizona, and Tina Kotek of Oregon signed executive orders to expedite renewable energy projects and ensure developers can take advantage of federal clean energy tax credits. Regulators in Maine, Minnesota and other states took similar actions.

These policies are working. This year, the U.S. Climate Alliance – a bipartisan partnership between governors representing 24 states and more than half of the country's population – released data showing that collectively, Climate Alliance states have reduced greenhouse gas emissions 24% below 2005 levels while increasing their GDP by 34%. Ten of those states also reached their goal, set in 2013, to reach 3.3 million electric vehicle sales by 2025. Additionally, a [recent analysis](#) found that nearly all states with a higher-than-average amount of wind and solar power are paying lower-than-average electric bills.

The CVM continues to build and mobilize grassroots power into a strong and strategic movement. The exciting progress in this report tells the story of how, thanks to the CVM's leadership with partners nationwide, we are driving an equitable and affordable future with clean energy for all.

CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL ACHIEVEMENTS

OREGON

Protecting Oregonians With Energy Responsibility (POWER) Act

NEBRASKA

Utility & local level clean energy advancement

ILLINOIS

Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act

OHIO

Historic bipartisan energy reform & coal bailouts repeal

NEW YORK

NYC congestion pricing & \$1B climate funding

MAINE

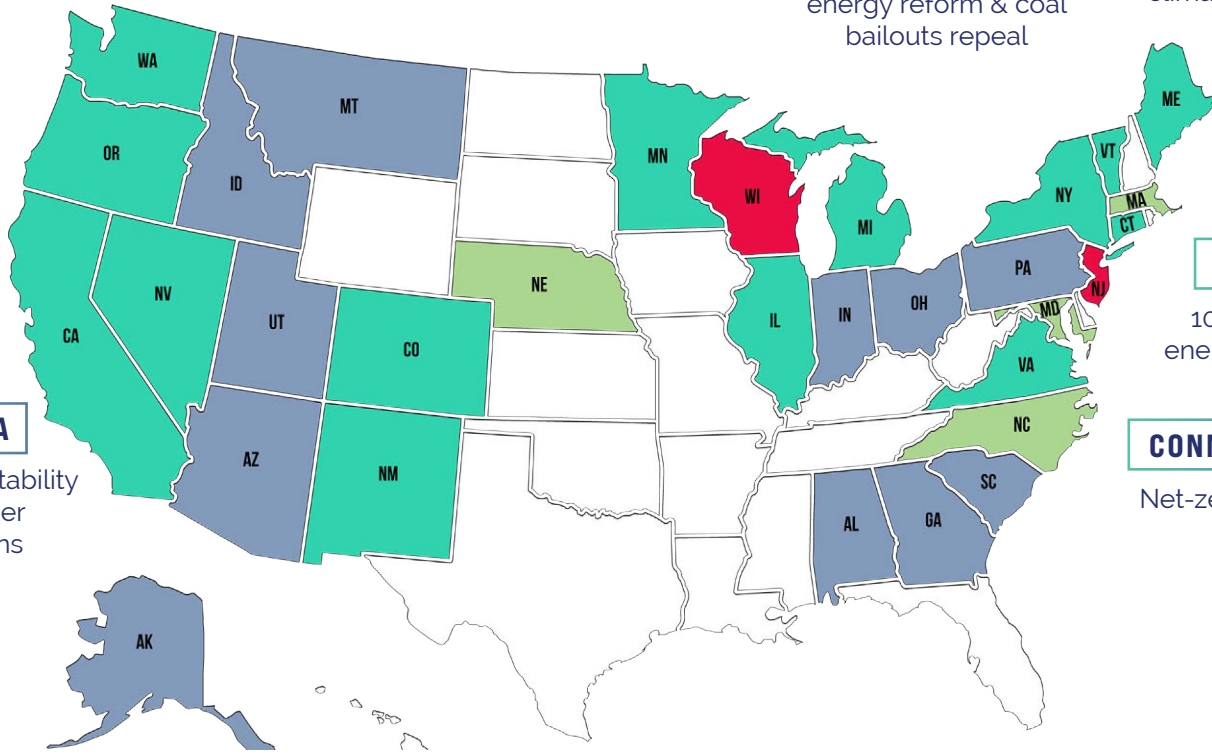
100% clean energy by 2040

CONNECTICUT

Net-zero by 2050

NEVADA

Utility accountability & ratepayer protections



● 100% clean energy legislation

● 100% clean energy executive orders

● Net-zero or carbon neutrality commitments

● Other states with active CEFA programs



CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL

BY THE NUMBERS

MORE THAN

1,430

Articles and Mentions
in the News

ORGANIZED MORE THAN

4,600

Meetings with
Decisionmakers & Staff

KNOCKED NEARLY

256,000

Doors

TURNED OUT NEARLY

37,700

People to Events

DROVE MORE THAN

198,000

Public Contacts to Decisionmakers

More than 41% of
Americans live in a
place that is committed
to 100% clean energy



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Featured Clean Energy Progress

CONNECTICUT	6
ILLINOIS	8
MAINE	10
NEBRASKA	12
NEVADA	14
NEW YORK	16
OHIO	18
OREGON	20

More Clean Energy Progress

ALASKA	22
ARIZONA	23
CALIFORNIA	24
COLORADO	25
GEORGIA	26
IDAHO	27
INDIANA	28
MARYLAND	29
MASSACHUSETTS	30
MICHIGAN	31
MINNESOTA	32
MONTANA	33
NEW JERSEY	34
NEW MEXICO	35
NORTH CAROLINA	36
PENNSYLVANIA	37
SOUTH CAROLINA	38
UTAH	39
VERMONT	40
VIRGINIA	41
WASHINGTON	42
WISCONSIN	43



CONNECTICUT

NET-ZERO BY 2050

An omnibus climate law strengthened Connecticut's emissions reductions goals and set a net-zero by 2050 target economy-wide. It also created a Clean Economy Council to develop strategies that will help the state meet emissions reduction goals, and the law offers a variety of incentives and programs promoting solar, energy-efficiency, heat pumps, and green jobs.

ELECTRICITY GRID MODERNIZATION

Connecticut enacted comprehensive energy affordability legislation that will cut energy costs for ratepayers, improve the electrical grid, and continue clean energy investments.

CLIMATE RESILIENCY

Connecticut passed a law that will proactively address climate change impacts and promote nature-based solutions, including helping municipalities prepare for sea level rise and natural disasters.

CLIMATE-RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT

Lawmakers approved a new State Plan of Conservation and Development that prioritizes climate change in development decisions over the next five years. In addition, the Connecticut Legislature made updates to the State Water Plan to account for climate change impacts in long-term planning.



Connecticut LCV staff in the House gallery during a debate on the energy affordability bill.

CONNECTICUT LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS THE CVM DIFFERENCE



After two legislative sessions with little climate progress, Connecticut's net-zero by 2050 goal was years in the making. Connecticut LCV (CTLCV) was at the forefront of crafting the omnibus legislation in 2023 and 2024, and they coordinated multi-year advocacy efforts with partners across the state as a member of the steering committee of the Connecticut Coalition For Climate Action. CTLCV helped organize multiple lobby days with hundreds of attendees and a climate march with over 200 participants, hosted a series of Action Hour events to engage and mobilize supporters, and drove over 2,300 constituent messages to decision makers in support of the legislation.

CTLCV worked especially closely with freshmen legislators to educate them on environmental issues and help them feel empowered to champion environmental policy at the State House. At their annual Environmental Summit, CTLCV brought together state decision makers and hundreds of supporters to help set the environmental priorities for the legislative session, including the net-zero by 2050 goal.

In addition, CTLCV consistently elevated the net-zero goal to lawmakers and the public, and maintained visibility through hosting press conferences with partners, placing op-eds, running extensive digital ad campaigns, and taking out print ads in prominent newspapers.



Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont signing the net-zero by 2050 legislation into law.



As Co-Chair of the joint Energy & Technology Committee, I depend on Connecticut LCV as a partner to help me frame the environmental imperatives for my colleagues and the public. They are instrumental in informing our legislative priorities every session."

– Representative Jonathan Steinberg

Co-Chair, Energy & Technology Committee, Connecticut General Assembly



CLEAN AND RELIABLE GRID AFFORDABILITY (CRGA) ACT



Illinois enacted sweeping legislation that builds off the success of the 2021 Climate and Equitable Jobs Act – the state's 100% clean energy law – and will accelerate clean energy deployment and help bring down energy costs. The CRGA Act creates a planning process for utilities to model how they will meet future energy demand reliably and cost-effectively. It also sets a procurement goal of at least 3 gigawatts of battery storage by 2030, establishes new energy efficiency standards, and includes critical consumer protections. The legislation is the biggest state action on climate since the Trump administration rolled back the Inflation Reduction Act.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS TRANSIT AUTHORITY ACT



Illinois invested \$1.5 billion to reform and expand public transit across the state, which will reduce pollution from transportation – the largest source of climate emissions. This funding was critical, as Northeast Illinois' transit agencies and the 54 transit agencies that serve downstate Illinois were facing a massive budget shortfall that would have led to layoffs and stifled service.

CHICAGO 100% CLEAN ENERGY



As of January 1, 2025, all municipal buildings and facilities in Chicago are powered by 100% renewable energy, including two international airports and two of the world's largest water treatment facilities. This milestone will cut an estimated 290,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually – equivalent to taking 62,000 cars off the road.

CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT TASK FORCE



Illinois created a Climate Displacement Task Force, a landmark step toward preparing for the human impacts of climate change. Environmental justice and community voices were prioritized in the legislation, with representation from immigrant rights groups, labor, housing advocates, and environmental justice organizations built into the task force.

EVANSTON HEALTHY BUILDINGS ORDINANCE



Evanston became the first municipality in Illinois to pass a building performance standard through the Healthy Buildings Ordinance, which requires the city's largest buildings to transition to 100% renewable electricity by 2050. Evanston is also the first municipality to adopt the Illinois Stretch Energy Code, which requires all new buildings to be highly efficient and have the infrastructure needed to install heat pumps, solar panels, and electric vehicle chargers.

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL THE CVM DIFFERENCE



The Illinois Environmental Council (IEC) is an integral founding member of the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition, which introduced the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability (CRGA) Act and fought for public transit funding as top priorities in its policy platform. The bills initially stalled in the spring legislative session, but IEC and partners quickly shifted their focus to lawmaker education and stakeholder negotiation to prepare for the fall veto session. Over the course of the year, IEC developed fact sheets and multi-media products, trained advocates to lobby, landed dozens of press clips, and collaborated with partners on postcard-writing parties, three lobby days with more than 800 attendees, and multiple rallies and press conferences. They also organized a Transit Day of Action and recruited over 40 volunteers to pass out fliers in major transit stations throughout the region. Their advocacy resulted in over 10,000 constituent emails and calls to legislative offices that successfully urged lawmakers to pass the two bills on the final day of the veto session.

IEC continued leading efforts at the local level to promote building decarbonization policies and champion city ordinances that commit to transitioning buildings to clean energy through the Clean and Affordable Buildings Campaign they created with partners in 2023. In Chicago, IEC has mobilized hundreds of people in support of clean buildings. Their advocacy has included organizing events, holding dozens of meetings to brief city officials – especially those representing environmental justice communities – putting up billboards and running ads, and driving stakeholder engagement in hearings and public comment periods. In Evanston, IEC and the Clean and Affordable Buildings Campaign contributed to similar efforts. They worked closely with Evanston city staff to shape the narrative around building decarbonization, educate the public, counter misinformation, and build support for the ordinance, including hosting press conferences, garnering media attention, and placing op-eds.



Here in the Land of Lincoln, we know clean energy policies are the future for our planet and our economy. The Illinois Environmental Council has been a fierce advocate for environmental equity in communities across our state, and I look forward to continued partnership as we work together to build a more sustainable and clean future for all Illinoisans."

– **JB Pritzker**
Illinois Governor



Illinois Environmental Council CEO Jen Walling speaking at Climate Lobby Day.



100% CLEAN ENERGY BY 2040



Maine accelerated their timeline for achieving 100% clean energy by 10 years, now aiming to meet the goal by 2040.

NEW STATE ENERGY DEPARTMENT



The state established the Department of Energy Resources, turning the Governor's Energy Office into a permanent cabinet-level department. The new office has energy procurement authority that will lead to more regular opportunities to bring clean energy online.

CLIMATE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION



The Maine Legislature codified a mandate for the Office of the Public Advocate – the agency responsible for representing ratepayers in utility decisionmaking – to implement *Maine Won't Wait*, the state's climate plan, which includes the 100% clean energy by 2040 goal. This requires the Office to prioritize actions that reduce climate pollution, promote clean energy development, and protect communities against the impacts of climate change.

CLIMATE RESILIENCY



Maine enacted storm preparedness and climate resiliency legislation that established a new State Resilience Office, launched a flood-risk preparedness program, utilizes federal funding for the state disaster recovery fund, and created a grant program to help homeowners make upgrades to protect their property against storm damage.



Maine Conservation Voters staff with former Maine Climate Chief Hannah Pingree at Conservation Lobby Day.

MAINE CONSERVATION VOTERS THE CVM DIFFERENCE



Maine Conservation Voters (MCV) has worked closely with Governor Janet Mills' administration and state agencies to bolster and amplify their leadership on climate issues. This includes serving on the steering committee of the Maine Climate Council, which is responsible for developing *Maine Won't Wait*, the state's climate action plan that called for the updated 100% clean energy goal. This year, MCV met regularly with the state energy office to secure robust standards for how clean electricity was defined in the law.

At the State House, Maine Conservation Alliance (MCA), MCV's affiliate, spearheaded the state's Environmental Priorities Coalition, which it has led for more than two decades. This session, MCA helped coordinate collective action across the coalition's 39 partner organizations in support of the accelerated 100% clean energy timeline and climate resilience legislation. The coalition's advocacy ensured the 100% clean energy bill remained a priority in committee, which was critical to preventing it from being carried over to the next session. MCV also conducted polling on climate resilience and storm preparedness that shaped the narrative around the issue and helped legislative sponsors, backers, and partners talk about and build support for the law.

In addition, MCV and MCA developed a new organizing program this year, mobilized Mainers to contact their legislators more than 400 times by phone and email, and turned out over 200 supporters to two lobby days with environmental, business, and labor allies.

Advocating in Augusta this year was not without some nail-biting moments and disappointments, but the overall results for people and nature were positive and a testament to the hard work of legislative champions, strong coalitions, and the advocacy and activism of Maine people who care deeply about protecting the Maine we all love."

– **Nick Janzen**

Director of Policy and Partnerships,
Maine Conservation Voters



Over 100 advocates and volunteers at the Maine State House for the Power Maine Forward day of action.



CLEAN ENERGY UTILITY COMMITMENT



The governing board of one of Nebraska's largest electricity providers, Lincoln Electric System, unanimously passed a resolution calling for additional renewable energy resources and studies into solar and energy efficiency.

SOLAR AND BATTERY STORAGE PROJECT APPROVAL



Three counties in Nebraska approved over one gigawatt of new solar and battery energy storage projects combined. These include a 350-megawatt solar and 100-megawatt battery facility in Dakota County, a 304-megawatt solar and 120-megawatt battery storage facility in Lancaster County, and a 250-megawatt solar project in Burt County.

SOLAR BAN REPEAL



York County, Nebraska reversed a solar ban just two weeks after initially passing it.

CLEAN ENERGY DEFENSE

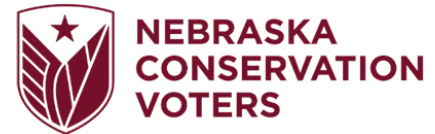


Nebraska clean energy advocates blocked proposed legislation that would have doubled the tax on renewable energy projects. If enacted, this would have significantly increased the costs to build and operate solar and wind energy generation facilities and potentially taken Nebraska off the map for clean energy deployment.



Attendees at a Nebraska Conservation Voters event learning about economic development opportunities from renewable energy in rural communities.

NEBRASKA CONSERVATION VOTERS THE CVM DIFFERENCE



Nebraska Conservation Voters (NCV) continued to lead public and decisionmaker outreach in counties statewide where clean energy projects are proposed or viable. NCV builds relationships with critical stakeholders, including county commissioners, landowners, county economic development teams, energy developers, community groups, and coalition partners. Three of NCV's priority counties approved solar and battery storage facilities this year as a result of their local powerbuilding efforts. In support of clean energy development, NCV generated 376 constituent messages to county commissioners and recruited dozens of people to speak at county board meetings. NCV organized 35 educational events that turned out 446 people to learn about topics such as how renewables are complementary to agriculture and how local communities benefit economically from these projects. The organization also coordinates a group of community leaders, called Renew Nebraska, to promote the economic development and rural revitalization opportunities presented by clean energy. In addition, NCV ran a rapid response accountability effort that successfully fought to reverse a solar ban in York County. In just 14 days, NCV organized partners, canvassed, and launched a text campaign. They knocked over 1,000 doors, drove 175 messages from county residents opposing the ban, and brought a dozen people to testify at the meeting.

For over 10 years, NCV has led a strategic and victorious effort to win and implement decarbonization commitments from the state's largest electric utilities by electing and cultivating clean energy champions to their governing boards, and building and mobilizing utility member support for carbon-free energy. As a result of NCV's work, all three major utilities – together covering over 95% of Nebraska – are committed to decarbonizing their energy generation. This year, the board of one of these utilities, the Lincoln Electric System, reaffirmed their goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2040 in their latest strategic plan and unanimously passed a resolution promoting renewable energy development.



Getting Nebraska committed to 100% clean energy was a long, arduous campaign. Now we have to ensure the clean energy our utilities need to meet their ambitious goals actually gets built. Securing permits for over 1 gigawatt of clean energy in just one year is a huge step forward in this new deployment decade.”

– **Chelsea Johnson**
Deputy Director, Nebraska Conservation Voters



Nebraska Conservation Voters' Renew Nebraska Organizer, Kristen Janssen leading a volunteer deep canvass in support of solar energy.



UTILITY ACCOUNTABILITY & RATEPAYER PROTECTIONS



Almost unanimously, Nevada legislators ordered that utilities fully refund, with interest, any overcharged customers. This was timely because a state investigation recently found that NV Energy overcharged at least 60,000 customers by more than \$17 million between 2017 and 2024. The law also called for regulators to consider a fuel cost sharing structure that would prevent utilities from passing along the full costs of volatile fuel prices to customers, and extended the timeline for scrutiny of utility proposals. Additional legislation mandated that utilities report disconnections due to non-payment.

EXPANDED SOLAR ACCESS



Nevada authorized shared solar installations on multifamily affordable housing properties. This expands access to the cost savings of solar – reducing operating costs for properties and lowering residents' bills – and removes outdated barriers to rooftop solar.

EXTREME HEAT PROTECTIONS



Nevada set requirements for its two most populated counties to include extreme heat mitigation strategies in their long-term development plans.

CLEAN ENERGY INVESTMENT

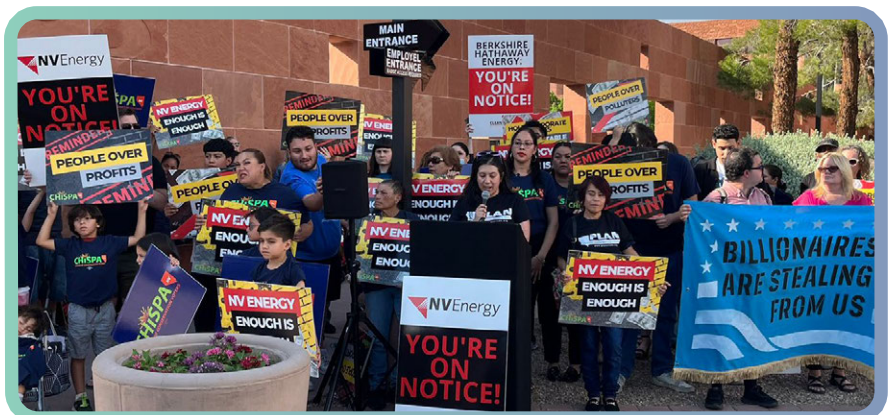


The state allocated funding for the Nevada Clean Energy Fund (NCEF) for the second legislative session in a row, which is critical because the NCEF has no ongoing state support. The NCEF serves as Nevada's green bank and provides financial and technical resources to help residents and businesses access cost-saving clean energy opportunities.

Chispa Nevada and partner community organizations holding a press conference against rate increases.



Nevada Conservation League Communications Director Camalot Todd speaking at a rally at the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada.



NEVADA CONSERVATION LEAGUE & CHISPA NEVADA

THE CVM DIFFERENCE



Nevada Conservation League (NCL) and Chispa Nevada launched Utility Watch Nevada with partners last year to build public awareness, empower people to engage, and shape the narrative around utility regulation through a multi-platform digital campaign. This has included placing extensive digital and print ads, creating and promoting powerful videos, and uplifting stories about real people, which have successfully led to a surge in media coverage of utility accountability and clean energy. NCL and Chispa Nevada also teamed up with allies to create SaveEnergyNV.org, available in both English and Spanish, to help Nevadans understand and access rebates, tax credits, and other incentives for clean energy, connect with contractors, and find clean energy job opportunities.

Ahead of this legislative session, NCL conducted polling that showed clean energy, energy efficiency, and utility accountability are incredibly popular among Nevadans. They presented this data to legislators, the governor's team, and other decisionmakers, and used it to shape their public messaging strategy. During the session, NCL delivered nearly 5,000 constituent messages to lawmakers through a text bank that mobilized 546 Nevadans to send 1,092 messages in just 48 hours, a patch-through call campaign that resulted in 1,650 calls to assemblymembers – 150 per office – and 530 calls to senators, and digital programming that collected another 1,636 actions. Chispa Nevada organized public participation in legislative hearings, drove emails and calls to legislators, and held their first-ever digital organizing bootcamp to train and empower volunteers. NCL and Chispa Nevada also co-hosted a lobby day with partners and over 50 attendees. Additionally, Chispa Nevada participated in Latino Lobby Day and Environmental Justice Lobby Day to ensure Latino communities' priorities were heard at the legislature.



Nevada's future isn't in costly imported fossil fuels, but in homegrown, clean energy resources. With demand rising from new large loads like data centers, we need utilities focused on affordability, innovation, and real solutions that put customers and communities first. This session showed both the progress we can make and the barriers still ahead. The path forward is clear: accountability, transparency, and investment in clean, affordable energy that strengthens Nevada's economy and protects families."

– Kristee Watson

Executive Director, Nevada Conservation League

Heat and high utility bills are among the top concerns for Latine families, and this legislative session we made progress to provide relief for Nevadans. These wins came despite corporate utilities trying to block consumer protections and rate transparency. Our fight continues to lessen the power of these monopolies, especially during legislative implementation. Chispa members will keep pushing for utility accountability, affordable rates, and clean energy. Our families deserve a healthy, liveable Nevada."

– Audrey Peral

Program Director, Chispa Nevada



NEW YORK

CONGESTION PRICING

New York City launched a first-in-the-nation congestion pricing program that reduces pollution and generates revenue for public transit by charging drivers \$9 to enter the busiest parts of Manhattan during peak hours. In the program's first four months, 8 million fewer people entered the toll area than during the same period last year, resulting in reduced bus delays, shorter travel times, increased foot traffic, and less noise and air pollution from vehicles.

HISTORIC \$1B CLIMATE FUNDING

New York Governor Kathy Hochul established a landmark Sustainable Future Program to accelerate climate mitigation and adaptation projects. Lawmakers approved \$1 billion for the program in the state budget – the largest climate investment in New York's history – with at least 40% allocated to disadvantaged communities and \$200 million for thermal energy networks, a New York LCV priority.

EMPIRE WIND DEFENSE

Significant pushback efforts successfully pressured the Trump administration to lift a baseless stop work order on the fully-permitted Empire Wind offshore wind project, allowing construction to resume after it was paused for over a month. Empire Wind is creating 1,500 direct construction jobs and will provide clean energy to hundreds of thousands of homes once completed in 2027.



Congressman Dan Goldman speaking at a press conference opposing the Trump administration's unlawful Empire Wind stop work order with NYLCV President Julie Tighe, Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso, Climate Jobs NY, and other labor and environmental partners.

NEW YORK LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

THE CVM DIFFERENCE



New York LCV (NYLCV) has worked on congestion pricing for decades as a leading member of the Congestion Pricing Now coalition and has held events and rallies, run paid social and ad campaigns, secured earned media, lobbied state and local decision makers, and participated in the public comment process. When the congestion pricing start date was postponed, NYLCV came together with partners to save the program, including by gathering over 2,000 signatures and amplifying the issue in the media.

NYLCV also helped found the UpgradeNY coalition with labor unions, which continues to be instrumental in urging the state to take important steps to decarbonize state-owned facilities. With the coalition, NYLCV won one of their main state budget priorities this session, funding for thermal energy networks, which will create green jobs for unionized workers who are currently employed in the natural gas industry.

Additionally, NYLCV coordinates the New York Wind Works coalition and led a large-scale community outreach program across Long Island in support of offshore wind. The program launched an extensive digital ad campaign, knocked nearly 20,000 doors, sent over 168,000 text messages, made nearly 70,000 calls, collected 10,000 petition signatures, and sent 36,000 pieces of direct mail. To reverse the Empire Wind stop work order, NYLCV and partners formally submitted an amicus brief supporting the project in the court case and combined grassroots demonstrations, media advocacy, and paid ads to show strong, unified support for New York's clean energy goals, and put pressure on Governor Hochul to appeal to the Trump administration.



As new challenges emerged in 2025, New York mounted a vigorous defense of our clean energy progress. NYLCV helped lead a rapid show of force to save Empire Wind and thousands of union jobs with it. New York City became the first in the nation to implement congestion pricing – and already traffic is down, business is up, and mass transit is improving. Lawmakers also repealed outdated subsidies for new gas hookups, accelerated investments in thermal energy networks, and financed a new Sustainable Future Fund. In short: as Washington D.C. stalls, the Empire State is charging ahead."

– Julie Tighe

President, New York League of Conservation Voters



Governor Kathy Hochul, legislators, community leaders, and advocates celebrating congestion pricing in the Manhattan Central Business District.



HISTORIC BIPARTISAN ENERGY REFORM



Ohio enacted a comprehensive energy law that promotes electrical grid optimization technologies, improves utility transparency, sets the first reliability standards for Ohio utilities, creates a framework to identify and prioritize brownfields and former coal sites for renewable energy development, and establishes a fund for solar and energy efficiency upgrades for schools. The legislation passed unanimously in the Senate and had only three votes against it in the House.

COAL BAILOUT REPEAL



In the historic bipartisan energy reform legislation, Ohio also ended bailouts for aging coal plants – one of which is not even in the state – that were enacted as part of the largest bribery scheme in state history and have charged Ohioans \$90 million annually since 2019.

SOLAR PROJECT APPROVAL



The Ohio Power Siting Board approved two major solar projects, Eastern Cottontail Solar (220 MW) and Frasier Solar (120 MW), in spite of concentrated misinformation efforts and fossil fuel-funded opposition.



Ohio Environmental Council and OEC Action Fund staff at the State House for the passage of the historic bipartisan energy reform law.

OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL ACTION FUND

THE CVM DIFFERENCEOhio Environmental Council
[Action Fund]

The Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund (OECAF) carried out a multi-pronged effort to enact comprehensive energy reform this year. During the legislative session, OECAF ran a digital program that mobilized Ohioans to send over 1,500 messages to nine lawmakers, testified on the bill, gave legislative briefings, and maintained strong media pressure through a strategic communications campaign with op-eds, earned media, and social media posts. OECAF also led grassroots outreach and hosted educational events that turned out over 135 attendees. Due to this advocacy, one of the Republican lawmakers OECAF targeted, Representative Josh Williams, made a floor speech about the importance of repealing the coal bailouts.

This year, OECAF helped launch the Ohio Business Energy Partnership (OBEP) to collaborate with the state's largest companies and trade associations to advance clean energy solutions, starting with the energy reform law – the first policy OBEP worked on together. The coalition was crucial in securing provisions in the bill that promote advanced transmission technologies, which will improve the performance of the existing electrical grid to save money and improve reliability.

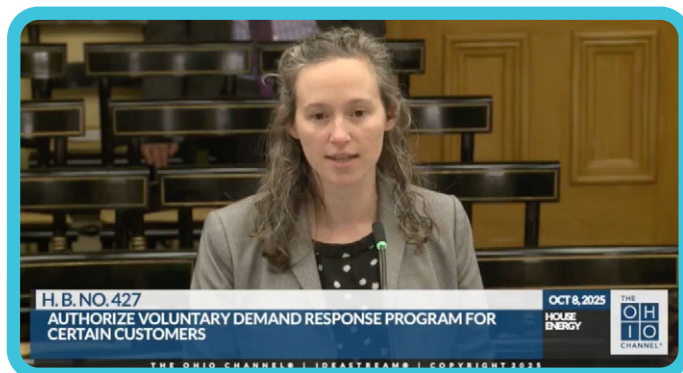
In addition, the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) intervened in the Frasier Solar and Eastern Cottontail Solar cases. They participated in negotiations, provided expert testimony, and signed the final agreement with labor partners. OEC maintains a strong presence at the Ohio Power Siting Board where they are a powerful and respected legal party in the state decision-making process around solar siting. In 2025, the organization created a solar scorecard tool to determine which projects to support. OEC solicited input on the scorecard from solar developers and from the state Ecological Food and Farm Association to ensure it included land-use considerations, as most proposed solar projects in Ohio are on agricultural land.



2025 showed the power of persistence, decision-maker engagement, and community action in Ohio. The Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund helped pass Ohio's most comprehensive energy bill of the decade—ending controversial coal plant bailouts, improving electric grid technology and reliability, increasing utility transparency, and advancing clean energy development. While climate change has far-reaching consequences, this year has shown that action is still possible even in the absence of national leadership."

– Nolan Rutschilling

Managing Director of Energy Policy,
Ohio Environmental Council



Ohio Environmental Council Clean Energy Attorney Karin Nordstrom testifying at a House Energy Committee Meeting.



PROTECTING OREGONIANS WITH ENERGY RESPONSIBILITY ACT



The Protecting Oregonians With Energy Responsibility (POWER) Act created a separate electric rate pricing system for large energy users such as data centers and cryptocurrency operations. This will ensure that Oregonians do not continue to pay higher electricity rates that are driven by energy-intensive industries.

CLEAN ENERGY EXECUTIVE ORDER



Oregon Governor Tina Kotek signed an executive order to speed up permitting of clean energy, battery storage and associated transmission projects to bring more zero-carbon energy online and advance the state's climate pollution reduction goals.

MAKING ENERGY MORE AFFORDABLE



Legislators doubled the funding for the Oregon Energy Assistance Program from \$20 million to \$40 million a year to provide energy bill relief for low-income customers, which will help avoid power shutoffs. The state also launched a heat pump incentive program offering up to \$2,000 in rebates.

UTILITY ACCOUNTABILITY AND ENERGY RELIABILITY



Oregon changed regulations so that utility profits are driven by their performance and public interest outcomes. This is an important reform from traditional regulations, which previously incentivized construction of new projects, thereby encouraging utilities to build unnecessary, costly, and dirty fossil fuel-powered infrastructure at the expense of their customers. The state also enacted policies promoting grid-enhancing technologies and microgrids for energy resilience, and directed utilities to report annually on upcoming rate increases.

CLIMATE CURRICULUM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Climate science and sustainability education are now curriculum requirements in Oregon public schools under a new law.



Advocates gathering by the Oregon state capitol in support of funding for key climate programs.

OREGON LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

THE CVM DIFFERENCE

Oregon LCV (OLCV) played a pivotal role in the passage of the Protecting Oregonians With Energy Responsibility (POWER) Act, a landmark law designed to ensure data centers pay their fair share of energy costs to protect households and small businesses against these extreme energy users driving up their bills. OLCV's powerful on-the-ground organizing helped sustain momentum throughout the legislative session, culminating in a lobby day that brought over 100 advocates to the Capitol to urge lawmakers to act. Throughout committee hearings, stakeholder negotiations, and floor votes, OLCV maintained pressure by amplifying stories of Oregon families burdened by rising energy costs and activating its community network to send over 800 emails to legislators.

OLCV is a founding member and serves on the steering committee of the Building Resilience coalition, which pushes for policies to promote clean, affordable, and resilient buildings. With the coalition, OLCV pushed for the heat pump incentive program and funding by submitting more than 125 written testimonies, bringing 11 supporters to testify in committee, and running a phone bank that generated over 70 calls to lawmakers in only 30 minutes.

Through their efforts, OLCV also blocked a polluter-funded attack on the state's critical Climate Protection Program, which requires a 90% reduction in climate emissions from fossil fuels by 2050.



Oregon LCV members and Move Oregon Forward coalition partners rallying outside of the state capitol.



Oregon LCV was critical in the passage of the POWER Act. Their coordination across partners helped us move this legislation forward with strong, united support. Beyond this bill, OLCV's ongoing work to protect Oregon's environment, hold elected officials accountable, and build strong partnerships is vital for ensuring that we continue to make meaningful progress on climate policy in Oregon. OLCV doesn't just advocate for legislation, they strengthen the entire environmental movement, making it possible for policymakers, advocates, and communities to work toward shared solutions."

– Representative Pam Marsh

POWER Act sponsor, Oregon State Legislature

ALASKA



The Alaska Center (AKC) successfully recruited and elected a clean energy champion, Katherine Jernstrom, to the board governing the state's largest electric utility, Chugach Electric Association. AKC ran a comprehensive electoral program that included a substantial digital ad campaign on Meta, Google, and local news outlets, and a voter outreach program that knocked 4,653 doors, called 24,860 people, and sent 46,704 pieces of direct mail to households and businesses. AKC also provided communications support and hosted a campaign kickoff event for Jernstrom. Due to these extensive efforts, Jernstrom won the election with 61% of the vote in a three-way race.

During and after the election, AKC focused on candidate education about key energy priorities. This has empowered Jernstrom to be a champion for better energy policy and in her position, she advocates for more aggressive actions to increase electrification, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, improve energy efficiency systemwide, and decarbonize the electrical grid. In the fall, the Chugach Electric Board approved the largest solar project in Alaska.

Additionally, AKC coordinated with partners to endorse and support incumbent Mark Masteller for the Matanuska Electric Association Board of Directors, another politically powerful electric cooperative in Alaska's fastest growing region. Masteller maintained his seat on the board, and AKC continues to deepen community relationships, aiming to support two strong candidates in 2026 and begin building a pro-renewable majority on the board.

Alaska adopted regulations establishing a community solar program – authorized by legislation AKC helped draft and get passed last year. AKC testified on the draft regulations and led a public awareness and engagement initiative to gather input for three rounds of public comment, including coordinating with partners to get community leaders to comment. AKC's comments helped ensure that the regulations maximize the opportunity for community-led deployment.



By electing a champion for renewables to our biggest electric cooperative and successfully advocating for strong community solar regulations, we are building Alaska's clean energy future. Now, we're pushing for wind energy to be deployed alongside solar on Alaska's largest grid, and supporting ratepayers in speaking up for clean and affordable energy solutions."

– Alex Petkanas

Climate & Clean Energy Program Manager, The Alaska Center

ARIZONA



Chispa Arizona has worked to promote clean electric public transportation in the city of Phoenix for four years through their Clean & Green campaign. This year, Chispa AZ engaged in city budget hearings to secure funding for electric buses and Phoenix confirmed plans to launch a pilot program that will add 12 electric buses to the city bus fleet in the spring of 2026. The pilot is a first step toward implementing Phoenix's electric vehicle roadmap – passed unanimously by the city council in 2022 – which calls for transitioning the city fleet to 100% electric vehicles. Chispa AZ Executive Director Vianey Olivarria served on the roadmap drafting committee and the organization led public outreach throughout the plan development process, driving community comments to ensure a strong final plan. Phoenix also selected the lane design for the first bus rapid transit (BRT) route this year. Chispa AZ is assisting in the city's process to design a BRT system to improve bus service, including creating designated bus-only lanes, and they are helping gather public input to make sure Phoenix's BRT system meets the needs of the community.

Additionally, Chispa AZ runs community engagement campaigns that educate energy customers about the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC), the state utility regulatory body, and empower them to participate in ACC decision-making processes. Chispa AZ amplified stories of people experiencing high energy costs in both Spanish and English, their events with partners turned out over 500 people to discuss utility accountability, and their Clean Air & Energy Comité of volunteer leaders grew to more than a dozen members. Chispa AZ's efforts to fight unfair rate increases caught the attention of the Arizona attorney general, who filed requests to intervene in two rate cases to oppose proposed bill increases. The requests were approved this summer.



Our partnership with Chispa Arizona is incredibly valuable because it strengthens how we communicate about clean energy, utility prices, jobs, and investments. Collaborating with their team throughout the year has expanded our reach, deepened relationships with partner organizations that share our priorities, and allowed us to make a greater collective impact. Working closely with their Communications Director also provides invaluable insight into what resources and messaging resonate most, helping shape Climate Power's strategy and narrative for 2026 and beyond."

– Diali Avila

Arizona State Director, Climate Power

CALIFORNIA



California Environmental Voters (EnviroVoters) successfully advocated for policies that reauthorized and improved the state cap-and-invest program, added \$18 billion to the state wildfire relief fund, set requirements for localities to plan for electrification, and paved the way for the creation of an independent Western electric grid that will make the clean energy transition more resilient by fostering collaboration with neighboring states. EnviroVoters also advocated for equitable energy affordability solutions by endorsing laws that set up public financing for major utility projects which will save ratepayers money, prohibited utilities from profiting on the first \$6 billion in costs from fire safety improvements, and banned utilities from spending ratepayers' money on lobbying and promotional advertising.

This year, EnviroVoters launched their Fight the Greed Campaign to expose Big Oil's leading role in the affordability crisis and counter the false narrative that climate policies drive up costs. They published an electricity affordability memo that breaks down the main causes of unaffordable rates and highlights top policy solutions, along with one-pagers detailing their priorities. EnviroVoters shared these resources with lawmakers and worked directly with bill sponsors to help shape affordability legislation. In addition, EnviroVoters convened an informal climate caucus that brings legislators together monthly to collaborate on solutions. The organization led public education and mobilization efforts in coordination with over 140 partners that drove over 38,100 actions to lawmakers in support of their climate and clean energy priorities.

Lastly, California approved the world's largest battery energy storage project. The site will include up to 1,150 MW of battery storage along with a 1,150 MW solar facility and was the first project permitted under the state's new fast-tracked certification program. EnviroVoters played a leading role in the negotiations to secure the expedited permitting process and helped ensure the policy included community and environmental protections.



California is leading the way on energy affordability and grid regionalization thanks in large part to organizations like California Environmental Voters. Their tireless advocacy is helping make our clean energy future more affordable, reliable, and equitable, ensuring that as we transition to clean energy our communities across the state aren't left behind."

– **Brigid McCormack**

Board Member, California Environmental Voters and CEO, Spindrift Advisors



The Colorado Legislature enacted two policies that increase clean transportation options, reduce traffic, and improve transit access and reliability, which will help reduce air pollution and make it easier for Coloradans to reach work, school, and essential services. Additional legislation made it simpler to install power lines along highways to help deliver renewable energy while mitigating impacts on communities and wildlife. Colorado also launched the Energy Savings Navigator tool to assist residents in finding energy rebates. Lastly, lawmakers approved updated building energy performance standards with penalties for noncompliance and created the Building Decarbonization Enterprise fund to support building owners meet these standards.

In support of their legislative priorities, Conservation Colorado (CC) built partnerships and joined 17 key coalitions to help align and coordinate 250 organizations statewide. CC led multi-pronged advocacy campaigns that mobilized supporters to make over 560 calls and send more than 15,530 emails to key decisionmakers, they recruited 56 advocates to provide testimony, and they leveraged their role as a trusted environmental voice in Colorado to advance a pro-clean energy narrative and dispel disinformation, garnering news coverage in nearly 80 articles. CC also expanded its annual member lobby and leadership development event to two days, with a full day of leadership development and training. Twenty-eight participants from across the state built their advocacy skills and visited the Colorado State Capitol to speak one-on-one with legislators, urging support for key bills.

In addition, CC formally unified with its Protégé program this year, which builds and amplifies Latine environmental policy leadership. This work includes running the Climate Justice Leadership Academy, which empowers the next generation of leaders from disproportionately impacted communities to engage in political advocacy through trainings and resources. The second cohort of their Boards and Commissions fellowship graduated this spring and the organization launched their third cohort.



Conservation Colorado plays a unique role as the state's largest environmental organization by bringing people, policy and politics together to protect Colorado's environment and communities. In 2025, we took action and supported legislation to cut climate pollution, expand access to clean energy and the outdoors, and we also stopped harmful proposals that would have set back Colorado's climate progress."

– Kelly Nordini
CEO, Conservation Colorado

GEORGIA



For the first time, all of Georgia Conservation Voter's (GCV) priority bills were introduced this legislative session due to the organization's critical powerbuilding efforts over more than five years. One of GCV's top bills, seeking to reestablish an office to legally represent customers in utility decisions, made it out of committee in the Senate, advancing farther than any GCV priority has before.

GCV Education Fund (GCVEF) continued to push for fair utility regulation and consumer protections at the Public Service Commission (PSC). This year, public pressure from GCVEF helped secure a rate freeze after the PSC approved six rate hikes in less than three years. GCVEF launched a paid media and public outreach campaign to call attention to the PSC's responsibility for increasing bills and mobilize people to get involved. They ran digital and radio ads, placed billboards, sent direct mail, conducted patch-through calls, and drove turnout to PSC hearings.

GCVEF also continued organizing support for clean energy and climate solutions at the local level and helped people utilize federal investments. The organization partnered with the state green bank to promote the Home Energy Rebate Program, including through a Resilience Workshop tour in communities around the state. Georgia was one of the first states to set up a program after GCVEF successfully pushed the state to apply for the grant funding, and it has already invested over \$6 million.

Additionally, GCV is working with local governments on proactive policies to address the impacts of data centers. With coalition partners, GCV compiled a policy toolkit and supported communities, helping pass data center ordinances and moratoriums in three counties and supported a fourth county to create a community benefits agreement – a legal contract between the data center developer and the county – that will hold data centers accountable to the local community.



This year, we did what many thought couldn't be done – every one of our clean energy priorities was either introduced or advanced. We pushed bold ideas, built bipartisan support, and took on the utilities to protect Georgia families. This is more than progress – it's proof that together, we can break our fossil fuel dependence and power a cleaner, fairer future for every Georgian."

– Connie Di Cicco

Political Director, Georgia Conservation Voters



The federal Bureau of Land Management held their very first auction to lease land for geothermal energy projects in Idaho. Five companies won bids to explore new geothermal projects, raising over \$3 million for the state government and three counties, with the potential to generate significantly more revenue when projects are built. In addition, the city of Cascade completed a study on geothermal heating and is pursuing a geothermal system to heat the town of 1,000 people. Boise is also pursuing a significant expansion of the geothermal system, including a potential first-of-its kind geothermal system for affordable housing.

Additionally, the Idaho Department of Lands took important steps to increase clean energy deployment on State Endowment Lands by creating new renewable ordinances, leasing templates, and guidance to streamline project applications. The Board of Land Commissioners – consisting of the governor and other statewide government officials – also approved the third clean energy project on State Endowment Land, a 250 megawatt solar facility, largely due to Conservation Voters for Idaho's (CVI) work to elevate the millions in education funding generated by endowment projects.

CVI has been building bipartisan support for clean energy – especially geothermal – for years, notably by developing relationships with state and local decisionmakers on both sides of the aisle and becoming a trusted partner on energy issues. Due to these efforts, CVI has served on various energy-related state task forces and committees. CVI brought together a coalition of geothermal experts and national advocates to examine potential policy solutions, met frequently with the governor's office to discuss clean energy opportunities, educated legislators and state officials about the economic benefits of clean energy, engaged geothermal companies who haven't been involved in policy advocacy in the past, and coordinated organizations across various issues including labor, commerce, industry, and agriculture, to bring them into the conversation.



With three quarters of our residents living in a community or utility service area committed to clean energy, Idaho is showing that even in a deep red state, a transition to wind, solar and geothermal energy is a fiscally responsible investment in our future."

– Alexis Pickering

Executive Director, Conservation Voters for Idaho

INDIANA



Indiana enacted legislation directing utilities to examine advanced transmission technologies (ATTs) in their resource planning and requiring state regulators to study the potential of these technologies. ATTs boost the capacity of existing electrical transmission lines, making them more efficient. Additionally, lawmakers voted down a well-funded attempt to dismantle a successful energy and water efficiency program in Indianapolis and ban other local governments from establishing similar programs. They also approved solar energy siting reforms.

In the second session since the organization's inception, Indiana Conservation Voters (ICV) grew their presence at the State House and continued to build relationships with legislators on both sides of the aisle. They gave 12 in-person testimonies on their energy priorities, launched a social media campaign recognizing 17 legislative conservation champions, and found creative ways to deepen connections with key lawmakers, including organizing hikes and other outdoor recreation activities. These efforts were critical to securing the bipartisan opposition that defeated the energy efficiency preemption bill and led to the Republican governor inviting ICV to attend the ATT law signing. ICV also collaborated with partners and solar developers to gain support for the siting reforms, including working on multiple amendments with both Democrats and Republicans.

Along with their advocacy at the Legislature, ICV expanded their base and reached new audiences. They brought on a bilingual organizer who formed relationships and engaged Spanish-speaking communities by creating materials in Spanish, attending local events, and meeting with Latino organizations. With coalition partners, ICV turned out over 150 people to lobby their legislators at Renewable Energy Day. During Earth Month, ICV tabled at events across the state and ran a positive accountability postcard campaign that sent 50 letters from constituents to lawmakers.



Indiana is paying attention. We continue to find creative ways to bring people together on energy issues. Whether it is utilizing modern technology in our energy grid, preserving local building efficiency programs, or ensuring Indiana ratepayers come first, our relationships are how we get things done and serve as our foundation for creative energy solutions."

– Delaney Barber Kwon

Government Affairs Director, Indiana Conservation Voters

MARYLAND



Maryland enacted omnibus energy legislation that included several policies supported by Maryland LCV (MDLCV), who also successfully removed some of the most egregious provisions that would have expedited permitting for new gas-fired power plants. When the bill was released, MDLCV and partners quickly launched a No New Gas campaign that amplified the issue in the media and mobilized advocates. Their public engagement and legislative opposition efforts were so effective that MDLCV generated twice as many responses to their action alerts this legislative session compared to last year, sending nearly 12,500 constituent messages to decision makers in 2025.

MDLCV's advocacy improved the language about potential new gas-fired power plants in the omnibus energy bill, removing a directive to waive regulatory review, adding provisions that allow clean energy projects to qualify for the expedited permitting process, and restoring the full 90-day public participation period for overburdened and underserved communities – previously codified definitions that MDLCV and Chispa MD worked with the Mid Atlantic Justice Coalition to develop.

The positive provisions MDLCV helped add to the legislation included ratepayer protections and utility accountability measures, a procurement process for battery storage, and removal of trash incineration as an eligible source for renewable energy credits – a result of nearly a decade of community-driven environmental justice advocacy supported by MDLCV. Chispa MD's Clean Buses for Healthy Niños Campaign also helped secure \$15 million in the 2025 state budget for electric school buses. Lastly, Maryland enacted a law supporting responsible solar siting after years of negotiations between MDLCV, solar developers, local governments, state lawmakers, and state agencies to find a compromise solution for solar siting.

In addition, Governor Wes Moore signed an executive order prioritizing environmental justice across state agencies, and MDLCV was quoted in his press release. MDLCV's executive director previously served on Moore's transition team, which recommended this action.



This year, Maryland faced significant budget challenges against the backdrop of rising electricity rates, which makes our important wins that much more significant. This year demonstrated the power of organized advocacy, proving that when Marylanders speak up for clean energy and environmental protections, decision makers listen."

– **Rebecca Rehr**

Climate Policy & Justice Director, Maryland League of Conservation Voters

MASSACHUSETTS



Massachusetts allocated \$716 million in the state budget for urgent transportation investments that will slash emissions and spur job growth in communities across the Commonwealth. As a steering member of the Transit is Essential Coalition, Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM) spearheaded the coalition's efforts to advocate for critical public transit funding. They organized discussions with partners and decisionmakers around transportation solutions and undertook extensive statewide outreach that resulted in 21 leading businesses and institutions signing onto a letter calling for investments in greener transportation options, climate resilience measures for transportation infrastructure, and public transit maintenance and expansion. With the coalition, ELM pushed the Legislature to prioritize investments in the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority – which is responsible for operating public transportation services in the Greater Boston area – and direct \$535 million of the transportation funding specifically for the agency.

During the budget debates, ELM defeated amendments designed to undercut progress on electric vehicles. ELM also continued to push Governor Maura Healey to remove barriers to electric vehicle adoption and participated in the stakeholder process for the state's second electric vehicle infrastructure report. They secured stronger recommendations to address gaps in underserved communities' access to electric vehicles and promote medium- to heavy-duty vehicle electrification in the final version. After the report's release, the Healey administration implemented these recommendations and announced \$46 million to create new electric vehicle charging incentive programs as well as scale up existing programs.

Finally, the Boston Zoning Commission updated the city's zoning code to require most new large buildings to have net-zero carbon emissions. ELM worked with the mayor's team to develop the net-zero buildings amendment and joined a sign-on letter with partners and testified in support of its adoption.



The Environmental League of Massachusetts' deep policy expertise and strategic thinking have made them an invaluable partner to me in my role as Climate Committee Chair. I've worked alongside ELM and the ELM Action Fund since my first campaign in 2018, when the ELM Action Fund was among the first to support my leadership. Our partnership has only deepened since and I rely on their advocacy to help drive effective climate policy for Massachusetts."

– Representative Tram Nguyen

Chair, House Committee on Climate Action & Sustainability,
Massachusetts General Court

MICHIGAN



Michigan LCV (MLCV) has run a sophisticated program to push for clean energy, ratepayer protections, and transparent processes at the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) for more than 5 years. In 2025, MLCV's advocacy successfully cut proposed bill increases for both of the state's major utilities in half, increased bill credits for power outages and made them automatic, and won consumer safeguards against data centers. MLCV also collaborated with legislative champions and allies to create the Ratepayer Bill of Rights – an energy affordability policy platform to protect customers and hold utilities accountable.

MLCV launched the "Our Bills are Too Damn High" campaign with social justice partners to elevate public frustration with utilities, especially their continuous rate hikes amid poor performance and record profits. MLCV promoted the campaign demands in the media, led a storytelling effort to highlight impacts of energy prices on Michigan families, and educated ratepayers through events, phone banks, and canvasses that knocked over 10,000 doors. The campaign generated nearly 4,500 public comments and drove hundreds of people to MPSC hearings to oppose rate increases.

In addition, MLCV led critical legislative defense to protect the 100% clean energy law – which they helped win last year – against attacks, including attempts to exempt over a dozen gas-fired power plants and to dismantle the new streamlined permitting process for renewables. MLCV also fought proposed spending cuts and secured funding for public transit, energy efficiency, the state green bank, and the Renewable Ready Communities program, which promotes local-level clean energy development. They continued their expansive media campaign shaping the public and political narrative around clean energy, led a legislator engagement initiative to help champions frame and fight for these issues, brought hundreds of advocates to lobby at the capitol, and sent more than 14,200 constituent messages to lawmakers in 2025.



Michigan LCV played a critical role in defending the state's signature clean energy laws this year in the Legislature, but even more importantly, they are building an accountability campaign and driving an affordability message that resonates with Michiganders and decisionmakers alike."

– Representative Jennifer Conlin
Michigan State Legislature

MINNESOTA



CONSERVATION
MINNESOTA
VOTER CENTER

During the legislative session, Minnesota's 100% clean energy by 2040 law came under attack. Pro-polluter legislators attempted to reclassify dirty fuels as renewable and cut funding for critical clean energy programs. Conservation Minnesota Voter Center (CMVC) submitted five written testimonies to key committees, signed on to eight letters with partners, drove more than 720 constituent messages calling on decisionmakers to protect the state's clean energy commitment, and launched a communications campaign with paid ads and media highlighting the importance of clean energy programs and the progress Minnesota has already made. This advocacy successfully kept Minnesota's clean energy law untouched.

CMVC quickly pivoted their legislative strategy in 2025 to push for protections and guardrails around data center development as this unexpectedly became a major fight. As a result, Minnesota enacted one of the nation's first policies preventing utilities from passing on data centers' exorbitant energy costs to regular customers. CMVC also fought to ensure the law upheld the state's 100% clean energy commitment by prohibiting utilities from using rising energy demand driven by data centers as an excuse to avoid meeting that goal. In addition, data centers will be required to pay millions for energy conservation and weatherization programs statewide. CMVC helped facilitate negotiations between allied advocacy groups and lawmakers to compromise on the final legislation.

Finally, Minnesota launched the Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority – the state green bank – which will lend at least \$25 million annually for projects that help advance clean energy solutions and climate mitigation initiatives across the state.



2025 was a year unlike any we've seen in recent history, marked primarily by a tied House of Representatives and a single-vote Senate Majority. This gave new life to opponents and made new achievements more difficult. However, thanks to years of building strong relationships across the legislature and with partners, we were able to protect our biggest successes and keep Minnesota on a path towards reaching our goal of 100% clean energy by 2040. While the data center issue is far from settled, we've made real progress towards ensuring the industry does not drain our natural resources, our grid, or ratepayers' wallets."

– **Nels Paulsen**

Policy Director, Conservation Minnesota Voter Center

MONTANA



Montana lawmakers approved a bill that would have authorized community solar projects with strong bipartisan support – major progress in a State House friendly to fossil fuels. The bill was vetoed by Governor Greg Gianforte, but passing a pro-clean energy policy through the Legislature demonstrates that as people struggle with rising energy bills, the benefits of clean energy are transcending partisan politics. It's also evidence that efforts to change the narrative around energy in Montana have made progress.

Montana Conservation Voters (MCV) is a leader in those efforts. MCV runs the state Conservation Working Group, keeps an active lobbying presence, and mobilizes the public. This legislative session, MCV met weekly with House and Senate minority leadership, hosted two lobby days with dozens of attendees, and made 845 calls to constituents in key districts urging them to contact decisionmakers in support of community solar.

For the past three sessions, MCV has run the Montana Pushback campaign, an online legislative action hub, and promoted the campaign through displaying posters in local businesses, pushing social media content, running ads, and putting up billboards. MCV has also conducted large-scale outreach efforts with regional field teams in Bozeman, Billings, and Missoula that held biweekly events such as legislative catch-ups, summer pint nights in six cities, and volunteer recruitment and training events.

With coalition partners, MCV successfully defeated multiple harmful bills, including one that sought to allow enhanced oil recovery and carbon capture and storage on public lands. MCV warned waffling lawmakers that the bill would be scored in their scorecard, effectively pressuring them to vote no. This illustrates the importance of MCV's legislative accountability work, which this year also included a direct mail campaign about community solar that sent nearly 3,000 pieces of positive accountability mail and almost 2,500 pieces of negative accountability mail in two key districts.



I carried the community solar bill during the 2025 Montana Legislative Session to provide Montanans access to cleaner, more affordable energy. Even though the governor ultimately vetoed the bill, Montana Conservation Voters' outreach to generate grassroots contacts to my colleagues and the governor helped elevate this important issue with supporters who we can draw on again when we bring the bill for reconsideration in the next legislative session."

– Senator Christopher Pope

Community solar bill sponsor, Montana State Legislature

NEW JERSEY



New Jersey expanded its community solar program to allow 3,250 megawatts of additional projects and created the Garden State Energy Storage Program to develop 2,000 MW of large-scale battery energy storage capacity by 2030 without raising electricity rates. Legislators directed utility regulators to study the effect of data centers on energy prices and ordered data center operators to publicly report their annual electricity and water usage. Furthermore, lawmakers enacted legislation requiring utilities to disclose their votes at the regional electricity transmission organization, strengthening transparency and accountability around energy decisions.

New Jersey LCV also launched a broad public outreach campaign for 100% clean energy. They led a multi-media push to shape the public narrative and promote renewables as the cheapest and fastest to deploy energy. Through engaging Gen Z artists and activists and diverse messengers, New Jersey LCV grew their audience. To elevate public support, New Jersey LCV ran a canvass in key legislative districts that knocked over 36,400 doors and distributed 1,015 yard signs calling for 100% clean energy, and drove over 11,450 constituent contacts to decisionmakers. New Jersey LCV also continued to develop legislative clean energy champions and got lawmakers to publicly declare support for clean energy on their official media channels and in the press.

In addition, New Jersey LCV coordinated an ongoing coalition to fight a proposed methane pipeline expansion and led outreach to communities in the pipeline path that won bipartisan resolutions opposing the project from 24 towns and counties. They spoke to residents and held events to educate and prepare communities for industry disinformation. They also worked with partners to support residents and communities that would be impacted by the project.



Partnering across the Garden State, New Jersey LCV delivered two major wins in 2025 passing laws to create reliable public transportation funding to cut air pollution through a 2.5% fee on large corporations and another to ensure renters and homeowners receive information about potential lead in their water. Now, we're working urgently to pass nation-leading 100% clean electricity by 2035 legislation—with the strongest definition of clean energy in America—to build a healthier, more affordable New Jersey for all."

– Ed Potosnak

Executive Director, New Jersey League of Conservation Voters

NEW MEXICO



The 2025 legislative session was historic for clean energy funding in New Mexico. The state established a Community Benefit Fund that will invest \$210 million in reducing carbon pollution in communities that have been disproportionately impacted by climate change – New Mexico's most significant investment in climate action ever. The Fund's first project received \$500,000 for youth workforce training programs in non-extractive industries. Additional legislation created a \$20 million fund for solar and energy storage projects that will power public facilities, and allocated \$13.5 million to the Innovation in State Government Fund to support carbon-reduction efforts by state agencies.

Conservation Voters New Mexico (CVNM) is a founding member of the Clear Horizons Coalition – a partnership of 34 environmental and social justice organizations – which rallied behind the Community Benefit Fund. To get the bill to the floor in both chambers, CVNM testified in front of the Senate Conservation Committee on behalf of the coalition, they launched digital ads and an action alert that mobilized 95 people who successfully urged lawmakers to pass it through its final House committee. CVNM also testified in multiple committees in support of the Innovation in State Government Fund.

Other New Mexico climate wins this year included allowing utilities to develop low-income rate programs and to improve electricity transmission through advanced grid technologies. CVNM also successfully blocked four bills that would have undermined critical climate progress and programs. At the State House, CVNM has one of the most effective environmental lobbying presences, meeting with lawmakers nearly daily during the session, and they engaged the public in support of climate action. This year, CVNM had over 150 attendees at their annual legislative reception, provided transportation to bring youth to the Legislature on the "Global Warming Express," and co-facilitated a two-day retreat with partners that brought 70 advocates together to discuss climate solutions.



The Trump administration is causing harm and chaos everywhere, leaving it up to states to act. New Mexico has built a strong foundation for the clean energy economy and climate action such as establishing the \$210 million Community Benefit Fund which is already funding climate resilience and workforce training. Critically, Conservation Voters New Mexico and many others are taking deliberate action to build partnerships across social justice movements to pass bold policy together."

– Justin Garoutte

Climate & Energy Advocate, Conservation Voters New Mexico

NORTH CAROLINA



North Carolina launched the Energy Saver North Carolina program, which utilizes federal funding to offer rebates to low- and moderate-income homeowners for energy efficiency upgrades to their homes such as switching to electric appliances and adding insulation. North Carolina LCV Foundation (NCLCVF) worked with the state Department of Environmental Quality to help promote the program, collaborate on educational events, and support people with applications. Through their extensive public engagement and Energy Funds for All virtual toolkit, NCLCVF has helped thousands of residents apply for the energy saver rebates, weatherization, and other clean energy assistance. Their Energy Funds for All outreach team has given presentations and held events in over 45 counties across the state, including a series of disaster recovery fairs in communities impacted by Hurricane Helene where they distributed more than 400 DIY weatherization kits. NCLCVF also conducted a large-scale canvassing campaign that knocked over 226,000 doors in five months to share the toolkit.

In addition, NCLCV supported lobbying efforts with coalition partners to enact a hurricane relief bill. They worked with Democratic leadership and other recovery groups to advocate for small business assistance and financial support for farmers impacted by Hurricane Helene. They also coordinated with local organizations to secure critical and overdue funding for communities still struggling to recover from Hurricane Matthew.

Finally, NCLCVF is leading community outreach to mobilize opposition to the proposed Southeast Supply Enhancement Project (SSEP) methane gas pipeline expansion. This year, they helped win resolutions against the project in five municipalities. With partners, they sent over 500 mailers to landowners along the pipeline route and called another 500 residents in impacted areas, organized community meetings, provided training to empower people to submit public comments for SSEP permits, and participated in and turned out dozens of people to local government meetings.



Energy Funds for All is a dedicated and nimble effort by organizations and volunteers to first spread the good news about the Inflation Reduction Act, helping Carolinians navigate and access funds; then it was to inform Carolinians of the changes wrought by the new administration; and now it is to search for additional incentives so that Carolinians can continue their transition to clean, affordable energy. North Carolina LCV Foundation's contributions of both funding and its talented staff are what has made it all possible."

– Sally Robertson

Co-creator, EnergyFundsforAll.org

PENNSYLVANIA



Pennsylvania awarded the first round of grants for the Solar for Schools program, providing 73 schools in low- to moderate-income communities across the state with up to \$500,000 each to install rooftop solar arrays. This will reduce climate pollution and create union jobs while saving schools millions of dollars in operating costs that can be invested into students. Solar for Schools is a priority of the state Blue-Green coalition, which Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania (CVPA) has led for five years. Their work to develop relationships with trade unions is critical and strategic in a state with the second-most energy production in the nation and one of the largest manufacturing workforces. Due to these efforts, CVPA and labor partners have maintained a strong, unified presence in the State House and continue to build political will for policies that advance a clean energy economy that supports family-sustaining, union jobs in Pennsylvania.

The Blue-Green coalition worked for years to secure the strong bipartisan support necessary to enact legislation establishing the Solar for Schools program in 2024. CVPA coordinated coalition advocacy, met regularly with legislators on both sides of the aisle to educate them about solar, and generated thousands of constituent messages to key lawmakers. Furthermore, the organization fought for a \$25 million annual budget allocation for the program and backed their environmental justice allies' efforts to focus investments for solar on schools in underserved communities.

This year, CVPA and partners pushed for immediate implementation of Solar for Schools to ensure grants were awarded. CVPA held their first membership lobby day in Harrisburg, which trained and turned out over 50 people to advocate for clean energy. They also ran their largest-ever clean energy education and lobbying campaign that explained the causes of high energy bills and highlighted how clean energy solutions can help address the affordability crisis.



While households across the Commonwealth are struggling to pay their bills and the president is doubling down on fossil fuels to enrich billionaires on the backs of working families, bold action is critical. Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania continues to fight for commonsense policies that drive the transition to clean, renewable energy that is more reliable and affordable, and supports a local union workforce."

– Katie Blume

Political & Legislative Director, Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania

SOUTH CAROLINA



Conservation Voters of South Carolina (CVSC) ran an intensive two-year defense campaign against proposed pro-polluter legislation, and it successfully blocked the bill's worst provisions that sought to gut utility regulation, halt clean energy progress, and undermine environmental protections. CVSC also secured positive amendments in the bill that will facilitate the procurement of seven gigawatts of solar and battery storage, strengthen energy efficiency programs, expand clean energy access for businesses, improve electric transmission planning, and raise salaries for state utility regulators, which will help to recruit quality candidates to fight for the best interests of consumers.

CVSC's efforts consistently demonstrated strong public opposition to the original bill. They created talking points, trained advocates to testify, and pushed turnout to pack the room for key hearings. For example, at the first House subcommittee meeting, CVSC filled the committee room and two overflow rooms. CVSC also drove almost 2,000 constituent messages to lawmakers and held their annual lobby day and oyster roast with nearly 60 partners and over 140 attendees. They coordinated a business sign-on letter with eight signatories, including two of the largest recent economic investors in South Carolina. In addition, CVSC kept the legislation elevated in the press to hold lawmakers accountable, and the organization was quoted or mentioned in at least 13 major media stories as a central player on the issue.

CVSC testified in multiple subcommittee and committee meetings in both chambers, met directly with legislators hundreds of times, and collaborated with partners to develop and pass key amendments with supportive lawmakers. They also created talking points to help advocate for the amendments, including creating tailored note cards to equip legislators in real time. This strategy was instrumental in securing dozens of improvements to the bill.



As a board member, I've seen firsthand how Conservation Voters of South Carolina maximizes every dollar for the greatest impact. Their lean, highly skilled team consistently delivers results. That's why I don't just support it with my time – I invest in it as a donor."

– Arnie Nemirow

Board Member, Conservation Voters of South Carolina and CVSC Education Fund

UTAH



Utah created a pathway for electricity transmission upgrades, which will improve efficiency and reliability to help meet rising energy demand, and will save customers money. After failing to pass as partisan legislation last year, Stewardship Utah (SU) revived the coalition behind the bill and led efforts to build legislator relationships across the aisle. They worked with freshman lawmakers to form a group of a dozen moderate House Republicans who supported air quality policy in a chamber historically hostile to clean energy. SU recruited two bill sponsors who reintroduced the legislation in 2025 – it unanimously passed the Legislature and Governor Cox included the law in his energy plan. As a result of their advocacy, SU was invited to attend the bill signing ceremony and participate in a technical hearing to help educate regulators about electricity transmission enhancing technologies.

SU's efforts to build bipartisan political will around air quality helped secure another hard-won law, making Utah one of the first states to enact legislation to regulate halogen emissions. These pollutants deplete the ozone layer and trap greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, magnifying their impact on climate change. They are also a leading contributor to the extreme smog that chokes the Wasatch Front – which is home to about 80% of Utah's population – and experiences pollution above national air quality standards for nearly 20 days every winter. SU overcame well-funded opposition from the nation's largest halogen polluter, US Magnesium. SU leveraged their relationships with Republican legislators and mobilized 550 people to contact lawmakers in support of the bill.

Lastly, Utah was the first state to legalize plug-in solar – affordable, portable solar energy systems that plug into a regular wall outlet. After the law passed, the bill sponsor reached out to SU to lead efforts to educate the public about the technology and help promote its adoption.



We passed the first law at the state level to start removing the obstacles to plug-in solar, and it has been great to see the national response. I know of several legislators in other states that are planning to run similar legislation in their state within the next year, and there are already two companies selling their products here in Utah. It makes it so much cheaper and easier for a single household to produce some of the energy they need."

– Representative Raymond Ward
Plug-in solar bill sponsor, Utah State Legislature

VERMONT



Vermont adopted a new Climate Action Plan (CAP) that includes 10 top priority actions and over 200 other recommendations to equitably address climate change. The Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC), Vermont Conservation Voters' affiliate, serves on the state Climate Council, which developed the CAP and helped secure bold policies in the final plan. The Climate Council held 12 CAP listening sessions and, prior to each in-person event, VNRC hosted teach-ins that empowered 85 volunteers to call for strong recommendations at the listening sessions. Separately, the organization carried out deep community and partner engagement and helped drive hundreds of public comments on the CAP.

Vermont Conservation Voters (VCV) successfully blocked all attempts to repeal state climate policies this year. With the ActOnClimate coalition, VCV spearheaded press outreach to ensure environmental issues were covered accurately in the face of disinformation and recruited community leaders to write op-eds explaining why climate action is necessary. VCV also helped host six education and advocacy days that brought together more than 200 Vermonters in support of climate action, coordinated several sign-on letters with over 120 partners in total calling on lawmakers to defend climate progress, and organized key committee chairs to send a letter to the governor declaring their commitment to hold the line on climate. VCV's efforts drove over 3,500 constituent messages to decisionmakers including more than 600 calls and hundreds of emails to the State House on days of important votes.

In addition to defense at the State House, VCV and VNRC removed unnecessary barriers to deploying small solar arrays and secured funding to implement the nation-leading Climate Superfund Act, which requires the largest fossil fuel polluters to pay for damages caused by climate change. This budget allocation will allow the state to conduct the necessary study to appraise the costs of climate-caused disasters in Vermont.



We successfully held the line this year to ensure that Vermont remains on the path to a just and community-driven transition away from fossil fuels and toward 100% clean energy by 2035. Emboldened by gains they made in the 2024 elections, Vermont's governor and Republican legislative minority repeatedly brought the fight against climate action to the House and Senate floors, but our activism and advocacy won the day. We amplified the voices of Vermonters who overwhelmingly support a clean energy future."

– Dan Fingas

Executive Director, Vermont Conservation Voters

VIRGINIA



VIRGINIA LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION VOTERS

Virginia LCV (VALCV) led multi-year efforts to build legislative climate champions, who have been critical to holding the line on environmental progress and blocking pro-polluter policies. This year, VALCV helped defeat over a dozen bills attempting to undermine the Virginia Clean Economy Act (VECA), the state's 100% clean energy law. They also helped pass legislation to establish a cost sharing program that will finance the electricity distribution upgrades needed to deploy more clean energy and meet energy demand, ensuring that utilities share the cost rather than passing it all on to customers. VALCV passed multiple additional clean energy and climate bills through the General Assembly, but these bills were blocked by their pro-polluter governor in his final year in office.

VALCV then worked to lay the foundation to reintroduce legislation and make progress under a new gubernatorial administration. Leading with an energy affordability focus, they conducted research, including polling and focus groups to strengthen their messaging, launched a large paid media accountability campaign, and created educational resources for lawmakers about how to push back against disinformation-fueled attacks on clean energy. They also helped coordinate a two-day planning meeting to relaunch an environmental justice working group connecting partners committed to driving proactive policy.

In one of the nation's shortest legislative sessions, VALCV met with lawmakers nearly 100 times, mobilized community leaders to send 90 messages to targets, co-organized a Conservation Lobby Day that turned out more than 200 advocates, drove 2,260 constituent messages to legislators, and held weekly virtual legislative update webinars with an average of 45 attendees. They also co-hosted the annual Student Climate Action Summit that brought together hundreds of college students statewide, and helped lead a defend the VCEA rally with seven state and federal pro-clean energy legislators and over 150 attendees.



Virginians are concerned now more than ever about rising electricity rates, the out-of-control data center industry, and corporate polluters seeking to rip them off at every turn. This is thanks in part to effective public education and outreach campaigns we've run over the past years and will be critical in the coming months as we drive forward policy solutions to meet the moment with clean wind and solar power, protect Virginians from pollution, and keep the Commonwealth on the path to 100% clean energy."

– **Lee Francis**

Chief Program & Communications Officer, Virginia League of Conservation Voters

WASHINGTON



Washington Conservation Action (WCA) defended key state climate programs and policies from attacks this year. They protected revenue from the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) – Washington's cap-and-invest law – steering \$3 billion toward environmental solutions. WCA engaged directly with legislative budget writers, urging them to use CCA revenues for their intended purposes, especially to support projects in overburdened communities and initiatives led by Tribal Nations. They also used their leadership in the Environmental Priorities Coalition (EPC) to establish shared goals, identify critical investments, and spearhead the EPC's communications strategy, developing shared digital materials so all members were well-equipped and coordinated in their messaging.

Among the 2025 budget wins, WCA helped secure \$10 million for the Clean Energy Community Grants program to deploy clean energy projects, \$35 million for the Weatherization Plus Health program to help low-income families receive cost-saving and pollution-reducing home upgrades, over \$54 million for port electrification projects, and \$126 million for a new truck decarbonization voucher program.

In addition, Washington updated its Clean Fuels Standard. The new standard will require a 45% reduction in climate emissions from transportation fuels below 2017 levels by 2038, up from the original 20% goal established in 2021. In collaboration with partners, WCA worked with the bill sponsor and legislative leadership to strengthen the policy language, center equity, and build in protections against over-incentivizing drop-in fuels for combustion vehicles. Ahead of the Senate floor vote, WCA quickly drove over 100 constituent calls into key offices in support. They also submitted comments for the clean fuels rulemaking and engaged new groups to submit comments.

Lastly, due to a legal challenge led by WCA, a Washington superior court judge overturned an unconstitutional fossil fuel-backed ballot initiative that would have reversed years of progress on building decarbonization and energy efficiency in Washington.



Washington is on the forefront of equitable climate and clean energy policies – even while facing an anti-democratic and anti-environment federal administration and a major state budget shortfall. In 2025, Washington Conservation Action stopped attempted industry carveouts from our state's climate policies, maintaining Washington's nation-leading requirements. We protected billions of dollars of investment in climate programs."

– **Caitlin Krenn**

Climate & Clean Energy Director, Washington Conservation Action

WISCONSIN



The Green Bay Area Public School District (GBAPSD) approved solar projects for four schools that will generate 1.2 megawatts of clean power combined – meeting over 80% of the energy needs for two of the schools. The projects will also reduce school operating costs by over \$6 million, leaving more of their budget to be invested into students.

Wisconsin Conservation Voters (WCV) continued running an initiative to enact local clean energy goals that has won 100% clean energy commitments from more than 20 cities, counties, and school boards over nearly a decade. In 2020, WCV secured a commitment to 100% clean energy by 2050 from the GBAPSD Board of Education, which unanimously passed the state's most comprehensive school district clean energy resolution.

This year, the GBAPSD Advisory Committee on Clean Energy released a plan to electrify at least two schools a year and add an average of 410 kilowatt-hours of solar power to schools annually. WCV worked with the advisory committee to help present the plan to the GBAPSD Board of Education, and to draft and promote a public survey about the clean energy targets and proposed actions to achieve them. Eighty-seven percent of survey respondents supported the GBAPSD transitioning to 100% clean energy.

Additionally, Governor Tony Evers vetoed a bill that would have prohibited the state and local governments from phasing out dirty fossil fuel-powered transportation and appliances and switching to electric. WCV lobbied against the bill and coordinated with partners to generate constituent contacts to lawmakers and host a lobby day with 300 attendees. They have also worked closely with the governor's administration to help position Evers as a clean energy champion.



The Green Bay School District made strides in the 2010s to become more energy efficient, and in 2019, we partnered with Wisconsin Conservation Voters to draft and pass a resolution committing to clean energy. With WCV's policy expertise and ability to organize the community, we were able to set up a clean energy committee made up of community members, industry experts, and most importantly, students to guide our work. Since its passage, WCV has remained engaged, helping tell our story, and get clean energy projects and policies approved through the Board of Education."

– Laura McCoy

Green Bay Area Public School District Board Trustee



To learn more go to:
lcv.org/cefa



Our Earth Is Worth Fighting For

League of Conservation Voters

740 15th St NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005

202.785.8683